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Third Thursday

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### Third Thursday 4-2012

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# Third Thursday

## From the Chancellor



Larry Arrington

**The demand for our CASNR graduates continues to grow. We are so grateful that Farm Credit Services of Mid-America is establishing the Farm Credit Scholars Program within CASNR. Farm Credit has shown great vision in establishing a program that will provide students with special educational opportunities including internships and**

**international experiences.** As a part of the program, industry representatives will be involved in designing the curriculum and providing experiential learning for our students. The initial group of Farm Credit scholars will be selected this summer to begin the program in the fall. Thanks to **Dr. John Riley** for agreeing to lead this exciting new program.

**We are pleased that our CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching) representatives could participate in the council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in February.** We have two volunteers who serve as our UTIA representatives to CARET, **Allen King** and **David Fugate**. Buddy Mitchell accompanied them to the capitol for the meeting. They were able to visit a number of our members of Congress, including individuals in Senator Alexander and Senator Corker's offices. They stressed the importance of federal funding for UTIA and presented data regarding how much funding is leveraged from the federal funds that we receive. **Remarkably, UTIA generates nine dollars for every dollar provided through federal capacity funding.**

**Construction is well underway on the new Large Animal Hospital for the Veterinary Medical Center.** We anticipate completion of this project by mid-February 2013.

**The new facilities for the Department of Animal Science and Department of Food Science and**

**Technology are nearing completion.** These new facilities will greatly increase our ability to conduct research and educational programs. We anticipate receiving approval this summer to begin planning for the replacement of Ellington Plant Sciences. We hope construction can begin next year.

**Congratulations to Dr. Rick Carlisle, Dr. Allan Houston and the entire Ames Plantation team on successfully completing the National Field Trial Championship for Bird Dogs again this year.** This is a very unique program within UTIA, and we were pleased that UT Trustee Doug Horne could participate this year.

I hope you enjoy reading about exciting programs and faculty accomplishments in this issue of Third Thursday.

Go Vols,



*Gathered to announce the creation of a prestigious Farm Credit Services Scholars program for students within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources are (left to right, ascending from bottom): CASNR students Jonathan Harrison and Ashley Allen; Farm Credit Services of Mid-America staff Art Whaley, Heather Sutherland, Mark Wilson; CASNR student Jamie Morgan; Farm Credit Ricky West, Dan Ashby, David Lynn, Mike Estes; and Institute of Agriculture Larry Arrington, Delton Gerloff, Caula Beyl, John Riley, John Stier and Tom Looney.*

## In Memoriam

**Horace Barron**, Veterinary Medicine professor and first head of the Large Animal Department, working from 1974 to 1989

**Ben Fletcher**, former extension agent in Moore County from 1953 to 1978 and Meigs County from 1951 to 1953

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## What's News

» **The Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries is teaming up with Stihl Timbersports and the Lumberjack Feud to bring a very unique event to UT on April 27. That's when "Fiji Island" becomes a lumberjack camp for the day.** This will be your chance to see some of our Forestry students in action as they demonstrate their exceptional skills in timber sports. The events get started late morning and will continue through the afternoon. Fiji Island is located on the east campus on Volunteer Boulevard across from the intramural fields. Come cheer on our students and don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind event!

» **The UT Gardens has recently hired Derrick Stowell as its new gardens educator.** Stowell brings a broad



*Derrick Stowell*

background of education and experience to the UT Gardens. He received his bachelor's degree from Maryville College in 2003 with a double major in Environmental Studies and Outdoor Recreation. After graduating, he spent a year as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Knoxville, where he worked with Ijams Nature Center and its Earth Flag program. He

also taught environmental education to students in Knox County schools. Stowell went on to complete his master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation from UT in 2006. He spent the past five years directing the national camp program for the Amputee Coalition.

## What is the Future of Extension?



*Robert Burns*

*by Robert Burns, Assistant Dean, UT Extension*

**I was recently asked to give a presentation on the future of Extension. Predicting the future is tricky, but planning for our future is very important.** As federal, state and county budgets have faced shortfalls, Extension across the country has suffered budget reductions. Extension agent numbers peaked nationally near 12,000 in 1980. Today that number is less than 8,000 or similar to agent numbers in 1938. Similarly, there were 6,000 Extension specialists in 2000. Currently there are less than 4,000, equivalent to 1968 numbers. As Extension numbers decrease, it is natural to contemplate the

future. One reaction has been numerous articles written by Extension supporters assuring us that Extension is still relevant and always will be. If we listen only to our supporters, however, we run the risk of learning too late that we may be out of touch with reality.

**If government continues to face budget shortfalls, funding for programs and agencies that don't contribute to the economy will face additional cuts. If UT Extension does not add measurable value to Tennessee's economy, then resources may be redirected to organizations that do.** The people who make budget decisions are likely to have limited or even no knowledge of Extension. We must address how UT Extension can help grow local economies in order to effectively compete for funding. Some Extension services have adopted centralized or regional models and cut county agent numbers to address budget reductions. Examples exist across the U.S. where this has occurred, and now these organizations struggle to maintain strong connections in their communities. The late Tip O'Neill noted that all politics are local, and this is true because all impacts are also local. Some have begun to suggest that Extension may have to devolve back into local organizations to survive.

**I believe the future of every Extension service is tied directly to the local relevance of the organization.** Due to our strong county-based programs and effective state specialists, UT Extension has remained relevant where it really counts—at the local level. As a result, we have seen county support increase 326 percent from \$2.7 million in 1990 to \$11.5 million annually over the two decades between 1990 and 2010. During the same two decades our federal support decreased 9.4 percent from \$9.3 million to \$8.5 million annually. Even as UT Extension had to reduce staff due to state budget cuts, our contact numbers with Tennesseans increased. **This does not mean we can sit back and relax, however. We must continually evaluate what we do and prioritize our efforts to focus on activities that improve people's lives in a measurable way that is recognized not only by those who know us well, but also by those who do not yet understand us.** As we implement our Strategic Plan, we have the opportunity to ensure that UT Extension continues to advance Tennessee into the future. ☘

» **Upcoming activities in the UT Gardens in Knoxville:**

- **Blooms Days Garden Festival and Marketplace, set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 12 and 13, rain or shine.** Admission is \$6 for one day, \$10 for both days.

- **The UT Farmers Market starts May 16.** Featuring locally grown produce, handcrafted goods and live entertainment, the market will continue through October 24. Hours are 4 to 7 p.m. each Wednesday.

# BLOOMS DAYS 2012



## Research Ethics Course Guides Budding Scientists

**Research-oriented undergraduates, graduate students and post-docs now have the opportunity for advanced training in research ethics in the life sciences through a 500-level course being taught in CASNR.**

**Two sections of the course are led by Racheff Chair of Excellence Neal Stewart, Animal Science Associate Professor Lannett Edwards, Biosystems Engineering Professor Mark Radosevich and Food Science and Technology Professor Lana Zivanovic.** The course is required for graduate students in Animal Science, and faculty members in FST have voted that it be mandatory for graduate students in their discipline, as well.

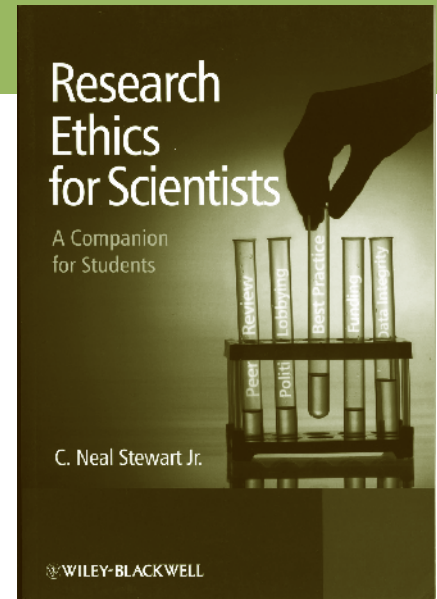
Students say the training is having an impact. **"I use ideas brought forth from the class every day,"** says Eric Goan, B.S. '08 and M.S. '11 Food Science and Technology and now pilot plant manager in the department. "The class widens our vision of what is ethical and unethical and helps with decision making. There are little things that people

would not think to be unethical that are brought to our attention and discussed in the class. The teaching of the course is not one-sided. Every subject matter that is brought up is discussed and debated within the class about the ethics of the situation, and everyone gives their thoughts (about) what they would do if they were in that specific situation."

FST master's student Blake Lowe took the class last fall.

**"I really valued the research ethics class because it was an open forum where we could freely discuss issues we encountered every day.** It also was extremely beneficial in that it made me more aware of common rules and guidelines and how to avoid and approach ethical dilemmas in the professional setting. **It continues to shape the way I think and act within the professional setting."**

**"So much of a career in science consists of mastering unwritten rules,"** Neal Stewart says. **"And the rules are constantly changing.** While some



students are able to figure them out, the majority needs guidance in how to develop and manage their careers in the sciences."

To assist them, **Stewart wrote Research Ethics for Scientists (Wiley-Blackwell: 2011), which is used as a study companion for the courses.** Proceeds from the book are invested back in the college.

Rich Masey



*Congratulations to Debbie Ellis and James Newburn, winners of the Plant Sciences 2011 Technical Staff Awards. Ellis, who is a senior research associate, was honored for her achievements in 2011 that advanced the department's soybean breeding program. Newburn, the assistant director of the UT Gardens, received the lifetime achievement award for his substantial contributions to all facets of the gardens across the past 13 years.*



Heather Inman

*Close to 400 students from 24 universities took part in the 2012 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave, which was hosted by the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. The event, which is in its 40th year, took place at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Pictured are students taking part in one segment of the obstacle course competition. The first Southeastern Wildlife Conclave was held in 1972 and was also hosted by the department, led by Mike Pelton.*

## UT Extension Professor Named Researcher of the Year



*Melvin Newman*

*Ginger Rowsey*

**Professor and State Extension Specialist Melvin Newman was recently named the 2012 Corn and Soybean Researcher of the Year at the 15th Annual National Conservation Systems Cotton and Rice Conference, Southern Corn and Soybean Conference and Southern Precision Ag Conference in Tunica, Mississippi.** Newman maintains a post-retirement appointment as a professor in the Entomology and Plant Pathology department. He is stationed at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson.

**Each year the 3-in-1 agriculture production conference recognizes an outstanding researcher** in the categories of cotton, rice, precision agriculture and corn and soybeans. This is Newman's first time to receive the honor.

"Dr. Newman's accomplishments over the past 38 years are extensive," says John LaRose, conference chairman. "The effort involved and resulting impact would require pages."

Newman joined UT Extension in 1973. He is responsible for all disease control recommendations of field crops for Tennessee. This includes development of statewide educational programs covering soybean, corn, cotton and small grains.

**"The disease control programs have always been aimed at saving money for the producers through common sense production practices," says Newman, "and I have always enjoyed this work."**—*Ginger Rowsey*



*Ginger Rowsey*

The Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center recently selected **Scott Stewart**, professor of Entomology and Plant Pathology and Extension integrated pest management coordinator, as the recipient of the 2012 Friends of IPM Educator Award. Stewart was recognized for his efforts in training producers and UT Extension agents on pest management programs and his work in developing new information sources for producers, including the website [www.UTcrops.com](http://www.UTcrops.com) and the UT Crops News Blog (<http://news.utcrops.com>).

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